

REMARKS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicants amend the application and seek reconsideration thereof. In this response, Applicants amend Claims 1, 3, and 8, and cancel Claim 2. Applicants do not add any claims. Accordingly, Claims 1-8 are pending.

I. Claims Objections

Applicants amend Claim 8 by replacing “A PMOS” with “a PMOS.” Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

II. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,418,494 issued to Betti *et al.* (“Betti”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

To anticipate a claim, the relied upon reference must disclose every limitation of the claim. Claim 1 as amended incorporates portions of allowable Claim 3 to recite “a voltage-current converter ...comprises a first NMOS transistor connected to a power supply terminal and a second NMOS transistor connected to the power supply terminal.” Applicants submit that Betti at least fails to teach this element.

The Examiner relies on current sources (I1, I2), transistors (Q1, Q2), and resistor (RE) of Fig. 4 disclosed by Betti for teaching the voltage-current converter. However, neither of the transistors (Q1, Q2) is connected to a power supply terminal. In fact, none of the transistors in the entire disclosure of Betti is connected to a power supply. Thus, Betti cannot possibly teach each of the elements of Claim 1.

Claim 1 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,522,200 issued to Siniscalchi (“Siniscalchi”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Examiner characterizes Siniscalchi’s disclosure as teaching a voltage-current converter comprising transistors (M11, M12), resistor (R) and current sources (404, 406). Neither of the

transistors (M11, M12) is connected to a power supply terminal. Thus, Siniscalchi also does not teach each of the elements of Claim 1.

Applicants submit that the variable gain amplifier of Claim 1 is at least structurally distinctive from the cited references, for the reasons mentioned above. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of Claim 1 are respectfully requested.

III. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 2 has been cancelled.

Claims 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Siniscalchi. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 5-7 depend from Claim 1 and incorporate the limitations thereof. Thus, at least for the reasons mentioned above in regard to Claim 1, Siniscalchi does not teach or suggest each of the Claims 5-7.

Moreover, the claimed elements of current sources, resistors, and NMOS transistors are patentably distinctive circuit components and cannot be interchanged arbitrarily as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, the NMOS transistors (M7, M8) cannot be read as the first and second current sources. Likewise, the current sources of Siniscalchi cannot be read as the first and second resistors. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of Claims 5-7 are requested.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that Claims 3, 4, and 8 are allowable if rewritten in an independent form. As Claim 1 as amended is in condition for allowance for the reasons mentioned above, Claims 3, 4, and 8 depending from Claim 1 are allowable for at least the reasons mentioned in regard to Claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of Claims 3, 4, and 8 are requested.

CONCLUSION

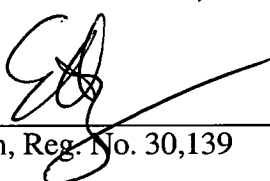
In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207 3800.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: _____


10/14/05


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

 10/14/2005
Andrea Costello Date